



TYPHOID FEVER **(*Salmonella Typhi*)**

What is TYPHOID FEVER?

Typhoid fever is an infection of the intestinal tract and occasionally the bloodstream. It is caused by the bacteria, *Salmonella Typhi*. It is an uncommon disease with fewer than 500 cases annually in the United States. Most cases are acquired during foreign travel to underdeveloped countries.

Who gets typhoid fever?

Anyone can get typhoid fever, but the greatest risk exists to travelers visiting countries where the disease is common. Occasionally, local cases can be traced to exposure to a person who is a chronic carrier.

How is typhoid fever spread?

Salmonella Typhi is passed in the feces and, to some extent, in the urine of infected people. The germs are spread by eating or drinking water or foods contaminated by feces from the infected individual.

What are the symptoms of typhoid fever?

Symptoms may be mild or severe and may include fever, headache, constipation or diarrhea, rose-colored spots on the trunk and an enlarged spleen and liver. Relapses are common. Fatalities are less than 1 percent with antibiotic treatment.

How soon do symptoms appear?

Symptoms generally appear one to three weeks after exposure.

How long can infected person carry the bacteria?

The carrier stage varies from a number of days to years. Only about 3 percent of cases, more often among adults than children, go on to become lifelong carriers of the bacteria.

How is typhoid fever treated?

Doctors usually prescribe specific antibiotics, such as chloramphenicol, ampicillin or ciprofloxacin, to treat cases of typhoid.

Should infected people be isolated?

Only people with active diarrhea who are unable to control their bowel habits (e.g., infants, certain disabled individuals) should be isolated. Most infected people may return to work or school once they recover, as long as they carefully wash hands after toilet use. Children in daycare and other sensitive situations must obtain approval of the state health department before returning to their routine activities. Food handlers may not return to work until they provide their health care provider with three consecutive negative stool specimens.

Is there a vaccine for typhoid?

A vaccine is available but is generally reserved for people traveling to underdeveloped countries where significant exposure may occur. The most effective preventive method is strict attention to food and water precautions while traveling to underdeveloped countries.

24/7 Emergency Contact Number: 1-888-295-5156

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